



# NEWS RELEASE

## OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

**For Immediate Release:**

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### **Baltimore Man Sentenced for Human Trafficking of 14-Year-Old Girl**

A Baltimore man, convicted of the human trafficking of a 14-year-old girl, has been sentenced to six years in prison. Tyon S. Purvey, 24, of the 600 block of Brune Street, pleaded guilty to a single count of human trafficking on September 18 and was sentenced by Howard County Circuit Court Judge Timothy J. McCrone on Friday.

At Purvey's plea hearing, Assistant State's Attorney Colleen McGuinn told the court that police investigators monitored a series of Internet advertisements offering escort services in which a photo of a known runaway teenager was posted between December 31, 2016 and January 2, 2017. A detective posed as a potential customer and contacted the girl to set up an outcall date at an Ellicott City apartment. Purvey drove the girl to the apartment where he was arrested and the girl was transferred to the Baltimore City Department of Social Services for her care and custody. McGuinn stated that police determined that Purvey photographed the girl for the ads on the classified online Web site, rented and paid for rooms at area motels and hotels, and retained most of the prostitution proceeds. Police also determined that Purvey had trafficked another juvenile girl during the same time period and that he had physically assaulted both girls.

Judge McCrone sentenced Purvey to 25 years in prison, suspending all but six years. Upon release, Purvey will be placed on five years of supervised probation, during which time the Maryland Department of Parole & Probation can have unannounced access to his computer and smart phone. Purvey must also register as a Tier II sex offender upon release.

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